



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium for storing an electronic data record, the electronic data record comprising data of an invoice, the electronic data record including a plurality of data fields, the plurality of data fields comprising:

a data field for ~~characterization~~ identification of a current state of the processing of the invoice assigned by a user, the data field being used for ~~calling~~ starting at least one ~~[[or]]~~ of a plurality of state dependent workflows, wherein the ~~called~~ started state dependent workflow depends on the current state ~~entered by a user~~ identified by the data field and further wherein the data field has a link to a state value table comprising the current state.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium for storing the electronic data record of claim 1, wherein the ~~data field is linked to a~~ state value table, ~~which~~ comprises a description of the current state.

4. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium for storing the electronic data record of claim 1, wherein ~~the data field is directly or indirectly linked to a table,~~ the state value table ~~comprising~~ comprises one or more instructions which depend on the current state and are automatically executable by a computer system.

5. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium for storing the electronic data record of claim 1, wherein ~~the data field is directly or indirectly linked to a table,~~ the state value table ~~comprising~~ comprises an assignment of the current state to an event which can occur during the processing of the invoice.

6. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium for storing the electronic data record of claim 1, wherein the electronic data record is at least partially accessible via the Internet and wherein the content of the data field for the current state or a data field for comments is editable via the Internet.

7. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium for storing the electronic data record of claim 1, wherein ~~the data field for the state is linked to a table,~~ the state value table ~~comprising~~ comprises one or more state dependent proposals for changing the current state.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for processing an electronic data record containing data of an invoice, the electronic data record including a plurality of data

fields, the plurality of data fields comprising a data field for ~~characterization~~ identification of a current state of the processing of the invoice assigned by a user, the method being performed by one or more processes running in a computer platform and comprising:

~~calling displaying~~ a dialogue for ~~entering a~~ enabling the current state to be entered by ~~[[a]]~~ the user;

assigning the current state entered by the user to the data field, wherein the data field has a link to a state value table comprising the current state; and

~~calling~~ starting at least one of a plurality plurality of state dependent workflows, wherein the ~~called~~ started state dependent workflow depends on the current state ~~entered by the user~~ identified by the data field.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
performing at least one of selecting, sorting, evaluating, and analyzing the ~~electronic~~ invoice according to the current state.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[12]]~~ 8, wherein the current state is selectable by the user according to predefinable events.

13. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the method is for use in business software, particularly in an enterprise resource planning software.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer system for processing an electronic data record containing data of an invoice, the electronic data record including a plurality of data fields, the plurality of data fields comprising a data field for ~~characterization~~ identification of a current state of the processing of the invoice assigned by a user, the computer system comprising:

memory including program instructions;

input means for entering data;

storage means for storing data; ~~[[and]]~~

a processor responsive to the program instructions for ~~calling~~ displaying a dialogue for ~~entering a~~ enabling the current state to be entered by ~~[[a]]~~ the user;

program instructions for assigning the current state entered by the user to the data field, wherein the data field has a link to a state value table comprising the current state; and

program instructions for ~~calling~~ starting at least one of a plurality of state dependent workflows, wherein the ~~called~~ started state dependent workflow depends on the current state ~~entered by the user~~ identified by the data field.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 14, further comprising program instructions for performing at least one of selecting, sorting, evaluating, and analyzing the ~~electronic~~ invoice according to the current state.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 14, wherein the current state is selectable by the user according to predefinable events.

19. (Original) The computer system of claim 14, wherein the computer system is for use with business software, particularly with an enterprise resource planning software.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising instructions for processing an electronic data record containing data of an invoice, the electronic data record including a plurality of data fields, the plurality of data fields comprising a data field for ~~characterization~~ identification of a current state of the processing of the invoice assigned by a user, the computer-readable storage medium comprising instructions for:

~~calling~~ displaying a dialogue for ~~entering a~~ enabling the current state to be entered by ~~[[a]]~~ the user;

assigning the current state entered by the user to the data field, wherein the data field has a link to a state value table comprising the current state; and
calling starting at least one of a plurality of state dependent workflows, wherein the called started state dependent workflow depends on the state entered by the user identified by the data field.

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, further comprising instructions for:

performing at least one of selecting, sorting, evaluating, and analyzing the electronic invoice according to the current state.

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 24, wherein the current state is selectable by the user according to predefinable events.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, wherein the computer-readable medium comprises enterprise resource planning software.

26-27 (Cancelled).

28. (Currently Amended) An electronic data structure for an electronic data record according to any one of claims ~~1 to 7~~ 1 and 3-7.

29. (Original) An electronic data structure according to claim 28, wherein the electronic data structure is for use with enterprise resource planning software.